Establishment of Thrift Fund for handloom weavers in Gujarat

1895. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Thrift Fund has been established in Gujarat for the handloom weavers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of weavers being presently covered by the fund in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Government of India has been implementing the Thrift Fund Scheme since 1985-86 as a social welfare measure. The scheme envisages creation of a type of provident fund with contribution from the weavers for facilitating them to meet expenses towards children's education, medical expenses of family members and expenses in connection with marriage and other religious ceremonies. The contribution under this scheme is being shared @8% of the wages earned by the weaver and 4% each by the Central and the State Governments. This scheme is implemented in the country including in the State of Gujarat. During 2000-01, 3171 weavers of Gujarat have been covered under this scheme.

Textiles Minister's visit to foreign countries

1896. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the countries which have been visited by him during the last two years;

(b) the purposes for which these countries were visited: and

(c) the amount which was spent on these visits and the details of benefits accrued to the country on these visits, visit-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) During the last